

THE STORY... HIS STORY

Chapter 1

Creation: The Beginning of Life as We
Know It.



THE STORY

Communicating The Story

- Oral tradition
- Using Visuals
- Printed Material
- Media
- Internet



THE STORY

Plot Points

- God, the main character of The Story, is revealed as the creator of all creation, totally distinct from, yet intimately involved with all he has made.



Plot Points

- Nature is not simply a collection of random, meaningless matter in motion; it is a carefully crafted revelation of a loving God.



Plot Points

- Humanity, made in God's image, occupies a unique role and position in this creation, a place of dignity and responsibility.



Plot Points

- Humanities tragic rebellion against God's command impacts everything.



Plot Points

- God has a plan to redeem his fallen creation, giving us a hint of the good news to come in his promise that a descendant of Adam and Eve will crush the serpent.



Plot Points

- Throughout the New Testament, the flood story forecasts God's future and final judgment.
 - Matthew 24:37-39
 - Luke 17:26-27
 - 2 Peter 2:4-10



Plot Points

- The flood event also foreshadows the salvation given in baptism.
 - 1 Peter 3:18-22



The Days of Creation

- Day 1- Light and Dark
 - Day 2- Sky and Water
 - Day 3- Land
 - Day 4- Sun, moon, stars
 - Day 5- Birds and sea creatures
 - Day 6- Animals and humans
 - Day 7- God's Sabbath
- Days of Forming
 - Days of filling
 - Day of rest



Cast of Characters (alphabetically)

- Abel
- Son of Adam and Eve; younger brother of Cain; a shepherd and devoted worshiper of the Lord; killed by his brother; name means “vanity, breath, vapor.”



Cast of Characters (alphabetically)

- Adam
- First man, made from earth; husband of Eve; like his wife, Eve, made in God's image; tragically disobeyed God's prohibition and affected all of human history; name can mean "man" and is closely related to the Hebrew word for "ground" (*adamah*).



Cast of Characters (alphabetically)

- Cain
- Son of Adam and Eve; older brother and murderer of Abel; ancestor of Lamech, who killed indiscriminately (see Genesis 4:23-24); name sounds like the Hebrew for “gotten.”



Cast of Characters (alphabetically)

- Eve
- First woman, made from man; wife of Adam; tempted by Satan in the form of a serpent, disobeyed God's command; name means "living."



Cast of Characters (alphabetically)

- God
- Creator of all things and central character of The Story; God chose to reveal himself to us through his creation.



Cast of Characters (alphabetically)

- Noah
- Descendant of Adam and Eve; a “righteous man, blameless among the people of his time” (Genesis 6:9); commanded to build a great boat to save himself and his family from the flood that God sent to wipe out everything having “the breath of life” (Gen 6:17); name sounds like “rest” in Hebrew.



Cast of Characters (alphabetically)

- Shem, Ham, Japheth
- Noah's three sons; called to help “increase in number and fill the earth (Genesis 9:1) after the flood.



The Creation of All Things

- Where do we come from?
- Were we created?
- Did we evolve?
- How old is the earth?



The Creation of All Things

- If human life is ultimately the product of an unguided, cause and effect chain reaction stretching back to the Big Bang, then concepts like human rights and moral norms are just code words for majority opinion.



The Creation of All Things

- If, however we let the Creation story set the stage for our existence, then we are the product of a powerful, creative God. We are not here by accident, and we ultimately are accountable to the God who put us here. He stands as the ultimate arbiter of right and wrong, not us.



The Tragic Fall

- What is wrong with the world?
- At some level we all sense that something big is broken. We understand what it feels like as we constantly try to change something about ourselves but find that we fail every time.
- What is wrong with us?



The Tragic Fall

- “In the beginning...it was good...very good.”
- Then sin entered the world.
- Humanity began to live life on their own terms.
- Trust and disobedience gave way to independence and rebellion.



The Tragic Fall

- There is much good in the world, but evil abounds as well.
- The fall describes how things got messed up.
- We live in a fallen world, waiting to be redeemed and made new by the Creator.



The Great Flood

- In the creation story, we saw the Lord separating light from darkness, the waters below from the waters above, and the land from the water. In each case God was refining his creation and crafting the perfect environment for His creation. After setting the stage, God began filling it with life.



The Great Flood

- In the flood, however, we see a reversal of this process. The heavens rain down. The earth is covered in the waters of chaos. A world teeming with life becomes a global graveyard. Everything with “*the breath of life in its nostrils*” is destroyed (Genesis 7:22). Later in Scripture the apostle Paul will write that the “*wages of sin is death*” (Romans 6:23). In this passage we see just how true that reality is.



Sin Changes Everything

- We've all had prized possessions: gifts given to us as children, family heirlooms, and expensive purchases. And most likely, at one time or another, someone or something has ruined or broken something we cherish.



Sin Changes Everything

- How do you feel when something you made or have ownership in, breaks?
- What makes something worth repairing?



THE STORY

Sin changes the relationship between God and man

- God and mankind before the Fall
 - Man and woman both created in God's image, and therefore worthy of dignity.
 - Both were to rule over creation, and be fruitful and multiply.
 - God and mankind had intimacy, walked face-to-face.



Sin changes the relationship between God and man

- God and mankind after the Fall
 - Still in God's image, but fallen.
 - Man hides from God, try to cover selves
 - God already pursues the sinner.
 - Man blames God for giving him the woman.



Sin changes the relationship between man and (wo)man

- Before the Fall, man and woman lived in harmony and intimacy.
 - They were one flesh, experienced intimacy ordained by God
 - They shared common purpose to rule and tend the garden.



Sin changes the relationship between man and (wo)man

- The rest of the Bible describes life in a fallen world. Relationships between two fallen human beings become extremely difficult.
 - They were naked and ashamed, tried to cover selves.
 - They played the blame game.
 - They experienced the curse and consequences of the now fallen world, including physical death.



God has only two responses to sin

- God rightly judges sin.
 - Everybody was judged in Noah's day, except Noah & family.
 - God waited patiently while evil worsened, provided righteous example to all in Noah.
 - God's judgment will have its climax with Jesus.
- If God is holy and good, He cannot let sin go unnoticed



God has only two responses to sin

- God covers sin by grace.
 - God sought Adam and Eve while they were in hiding. He made coverings for them
 - God provided the means of salvation for Noah and family in the ark.
 - All still live with the consequences of sin.



God's Image

- What does it mean to be made in God's image?
- Did Adam and Eve have a good understanding of God's image? Why or why not?
- How do we reflect God's image today?



The Story- Observations

- “The book is so much better than the movie!”
- Timeline
- Word Definitions
- Lack of numbers
- Others?



Other info...

- Connect with others
 - Bethany Facebook page
 - www.facebook.com/Bethany.Long.Beach
- Bringing The Story Home
- Audio and slides of today' s lesson
- Online Study
 - www.bethanylutheran.org
- Next week- Chapter 2- God Builds a Nation

